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## EDUCATION HELD THREAT TO SOVIET

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A.W. Dulles at Columbia Sees  
Dilemma on Schooling

The country's chief civilian intelligence officer yesterday described the Soviet Union's leaders as a "troubled," "perplexed" and "probably unharmonious" group being forced into a policy of compromise.

Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, raised the possibility that mass education of the Soviet people would "in the long run" destroy the Communist system of government.

"In introducing mass education, the troubled Soviet leaders have loosed forces dangerous to themselves," he said. "It will be very difficult for them henceforth to close off their own people from access to the realities of the outside world."

Mr. Dulles spoke on "Education in the Soviet Union" at the fifty-third annual commencement day luncheon of the Alumni Federation of Columbia University in John Jay Hall.

Joseph Stalin, because he was a dictator, could turn the clock back whenever the Soviet system showed signs of adjustment to the outside world. Mr. Dulles said. A reversion to Stalinist rigidity may be attempted, he

added, but it would be "no easy task."

### Leaders Driven to Compromise

The dictator had been replaced by a group ruling by committee "in which the Soviet people themselves are not clearly told who is boss," Mr. Dulles said. He believed the Soviet leaders were being driven to compromise because of the uncertainty of high

governmental command plus the broadening of the educational base within and increasing contacts with the outside world.

He predicted that the compromises would inevitably lead to the admission that the Marxist-Leninist system was not the only permissible way of life. From this premise he posed three questions:

¶ If Moscow really adopts the idea of co-existence, then western free systems must be permissible as a way of life and, if permissible anywhere, why not in the Soviet Union itself?

¶ If Titoist heresy is to be forgiven and approved only a few years after being denounced more ferociously even than capitalism, how can the Soviet Union deny European satellites the right to similar heresies if they so desire?

¶ Can the Soviet Union give its people a better material education and still keep them from wanting more and from thinking more on these lines?

### Holds Freedom Must Win

Answering himself, Mr. Dulles said: "I do not think we can easily give the answer in point of time, but one can say with assurance that, in the long run, man's desire for freedom must break any bonds that can be placed around him."

The civilian intelligence chief stressed that recently this country had been giving close study to the Soviet educational system. He declared that if, as recent events foreshadowed, there was more direct human contact between the West and the Communist world the impact of the United States' educational system on that of the Soviet may become a factor of real significance.

The possibility existed, Mr. Dulles said, that the present Soviet leaders might engage in "foreign adventures" as a solution to meeting their problems. "But," he added, "there remains the possibility that newly-created wants and expectations, stimulated by education and perhaps by more exposure to the west, will in time compel great and almost unpredictable changes in the Soviet system itself."

### Evidence of Changes Noted

There was already evidence that the changes had begun and that educational advances were playing a major part, Mr. Dulles said. He cited as evidence what he described as a "de-emphasis" of ideological study in connection with the Soviet system. He believed this freedom was spreading to other areas, no



**ELECTED:** George V. Cooper, who has been chosen to head the Alumni Federation of Columbia University.

tably the biological and agricultural sciences.

Spelling out the advances made in Russia's physical sciences, Mr. Dulles said that Soviet mathematics and meteorology appeared to be "clearly on a par" with those of the west, and even ahead in some respects.

"Military needs dominate their research programs," he went on. "We who are in intelligence work have learned by now that it is rarely safe to assume that the Soviets do not have the basic skill, both theoretical and technical, to do in these fields what we can do."

Mr. Dulles asserted that at times this country's intelligence experts had been surprised at the progress shown by the Russians, particularly in the aviation, nuclear and electronic fields.

He noted that the Soviet experts had rarely been "slavish copyists," at least where a western invention or technique was of military importance. They employed adaptation rather than adoption, Mr. Dulles said, as in the case of their improvement of the Nene jet engine. In certain key fields, he added, the Russians clearly showed a capacity for independent progress.

Describing the "de-emphasis" of ideological study in some fields as "only a small straw in the wind," he said that it was, nevertheless, "a significant one." The freedom to seek truth, he predicted, can be expected to spread "even in the hallowed sanctuary of economics."

year that the "decadent" capitalist system continues to avoid depression and to turn out more and more goods even the most hardened Soviet economist must wonder about the accuracy of the Communist version of truth in this field.

### Freedom Slower in Economics

Mr. Dulles observed that lasting freedom would come more slowly in economics and the humanities than where scientific matters more open to proof were involved.

Mr. Dulles said Soviet edu-

tion had two aims: To turn out "well-conditioned" members of a Communist state by thought control, and to train capable people for a technically advanced society. The Soviets, he added, have reached a "real dilemma" between the two.

He said he believed "some thoughtful Soviet citizens" were beginning to see through their leaders' distortion of history and through the whole process of thought control. For the moment, he said, this process could be expected to continue to affect the masses of the Russian people, but he wondered whether it would be equally so when the average educational level was raised to the tenth grade from the seventh or lower.

Mr. Dulles warned against disparaging Soviet educational efforts and the results it had obtained in the scientific field. Generally speaking, he said, Russia's top scientists are the equal of top men in the West, though fewer in number.

He estimated that the Russians would graduate 1,200,000 scientists and engineers in the decade from 1950 to 1960, compared to 900,000 graduated in the United States. Unless quick measures are taken, he warned, Soviet manpower in key areas may well outnumber this country's by 1960.

George B. Cooper, who lives at 200 East Sixty-sixth Street, was elected president of the Alumni Federation. Mr. Cooper is vice president of White Swan, Inc., of Yonkers.